

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 OMB-01 /070 W
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R 211525Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL LYON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1008
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS LYON 0067

E.O. 11652 :N/A
TAGS : PINT, FR
SUBJECT : MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 1977 : LEFT CONSOLIDATES
GAINS IN SECOND ROUND IN LYON CONSULAR DISTRICT

REF : LYON 55 AND 64

SUMMARY: THE UNITED LEFT SCORED HEAVILY TO CONSOLIDATE
GAINS THROUGHOUT THE LYON CONSULAR DISTRICT,
LEAVING ONLY THE MAJOR CITIES OF LYON AND DIJON IN
MAJORITY HANDS. THE GREATEST SETBACK FOR THE MAJORITY
WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE LOSS OF MINISTER DURAFOUR
TO COMMUNIST SANGUEDOLCE IN THE RACE FOR MAYOR OF
ST ETIENNE. END SUMMARY

LYON METROPOLITAN AREA

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DESPITE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE OLD PRADEL ALIGNMENTS,
INCUMBENT MAYOR, FRANCISQUE COLLOMB, WAS EASILY
RETURNED TO POWER. HOWEVER FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE
1965 OPPOSITION CANDIDATES WON SEATS ON THE COUNCIL.
THE OPPOSITION NOW HOLDS 12 OF THE 61 SEATS.

VILLEURBANNE

CHARLES HERNU DREW VOTES FROM THE ENTIRE LEFT IN AN IMPRESSIVE VICTORY OVER INCUMBENT MAYOR ETIENNE GAGNAIRE. DESPITE DIVISIONS IN THE LEFT DURING THE ENTIRE CAMPAIGN HERNU RECEIVED 60 0/0 OF THE VOTE ON THE SECOND ROUND.

OTHER REGIONAL CAPITALS

BOURG-EN-BRESSE

IN ANOTHER LOCAL CAPITAL (OF THE AIN DEPARTMENT) , NOT PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED IN OUR REPORTING, DEPUTY-MAYOR PAUL BARBEROT , WHO HAD BEEN IN OFFICE 12 YEARS WAS BEATEN UNEXPECTEDLY BY COMMON LEFT CANDIDATE LOUIS ROBIN, P.S.

GRENOBLE

OUTGOING MAYOR AND COMMON PROGRAM CANDIDATE HUBERT DUBEDOUT, P.S. , WAS RE-ELECTED BY BEATING MAJORITY CHALLENGER JEAN-CHARLES PARIAUD 31.500 TO 24.500. ONCE AGAIN, IN THE SECOND ROUND, PARIAUD PROVED TO BE A BETTER VOTE-GETTER THAN MANY HAD EXPECTED. BUT STILL FELL FAR SHORT FROM THE SUPPORT NEEDED FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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AN UPSET.

MACON

RELATIVELY YOUNG SOCIALIST CHALLENGER MICHEL ROGNARD, 37, SOLIDLY SOLIDLY DEFEATED LONG-TIME MAYOR LOUIS ESCANDE (IN OFFICE SINCE 53). ESCANDE S CHANCES WERE BADLY DIMINISHED BY UNALLIGNED CANDIDATE DR ANDRE LAPRAS, WHO IN THE FIRST ROUND DREW HALF THE MAJORITY VOTE TO HIMSELF.

SAINT-ETIENNE

CERTAINLY THE GREATEST BLOW TO THE MAJORITY IN THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT WAS THE LOSS OF THE SAINT-ETIENNE MAYORALTY BY MINISTER MICHEL DURAFOUR, A CLOSE GISCARD ASSOCIATE FOR MANY YEARS, TO COMMUNIST CHALLENGER JOSEPH

SANGUEDOLCE, MEMBER OF PCF S CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
DURAFOR POLLED 41.396 AGAINST SANGUEDOLCE 43.600.

VALENCE

IN VALENCE, DEPUTE MAYOR FRANCOIS RIBADEAU-DUMAS WAS
OUSTED(IN THE FIRST ROUND) BY COMMON LEFT CHALLENGER
RODOLPHE PESCE, P.S.

VIENNE

DEPUTE-MAYOR LOUIS MERMAZ, P.S., WAS EOASILY
RE-ELECTED NOT WITHSTANDING A FORCEFUL CHALLENGE
BY FORMER MAYOR DR. CHAPUIS.
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